



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

# Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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## CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 25

### AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Cool, rainy days slowed harvest progress of the major field crops during the week, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. In fact, the harvest pace for corn is running about 17 days behind last year and 9 days behind the 5-year average. Harvest of the soybean crop is running about 18 days behind last year and 10 days behind average. Recent precipitation has recharged topsoil moisture which will be beneficial to the germination of the winter wheat crop. Harvest of corn silage is nearing completion with only a few dairies still actively harvesting in some northern counties.

### FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 4.0 **days suitable for field work**. Ninety-two percent of the **corn** crop is in the **dent** stage compared with 100 percent last year and 94 percent for the 5-year average. Fifty percent of the corn acreage is **mature** compared to 93 percent last year and 62 percent for the 5-year average. Seven percent of the corn acreage has been **harvested**, compared to 43 percent last year and 16 percent for the 5-year average. **Moisture content** of harvested corn is averaging about 24 percent. **Corn condition** is rated 33 percent good to excellent compared with 57 percent last year at this time.

Sixty-one percent of the **soybean** acreage is **shedding leaves** compared to 88 percent last year and 72 percent for the 5-year average. Three percent of the soybean acreage has been **harvested** compared with 38 percent last year and 14 percent for the 5-year average. **Moisture content** of harvested soybeans is averaging about 14.5 percent. **Soybean condition** is rated 40 percent good to excellent compared with 53 percent last year at this time.

Five percent of the **winter wheat** acreage has been **planted** compared to 9 percent last year and 5 percent for the 5-year average. Seventy-six percent of the **tobacco** crop has been **harvested** compared with 87 percent last year and 71 percent for the 5-year average.

### LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

**Pasture condition** continued to improve and is now rated 16 percent good to excellent compared with 10 percent last year. **Livestock** were reported to be in mostly good condition.

### CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
Percent				
Corn in Dent	92	85	100	94
Corn Mature	50	36	93	62
Corn Harvested	7	4	43	16
Soybeans Shedding Lvs.	61	39	88	72
Soybeans Harvested	3	1	38	14
Winter Wheat Planted	5	NA	9	5
Tobacco Harvested	76	61	87	71

### CROP CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	10	19	38	29	4
Soybean	9	16	35	35	5
Pasture	16	33	35	14	2

### SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK

Soil Moisture	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	9	22	46
Short	31	41	40
Adequate	54	37	14
Surplus	6	0	0
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	20	28	38
Short	41	42	44
Adequate	38	30	18
Surplus	1	0	0
<b>Days Suitable</b>	4.0	5.8	6.5

### CONTACT INFORMATION

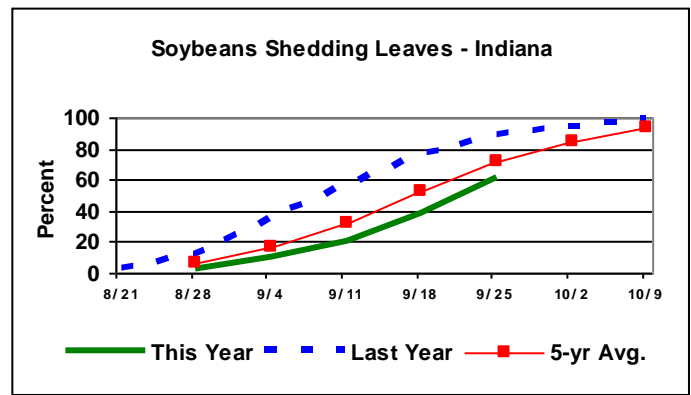
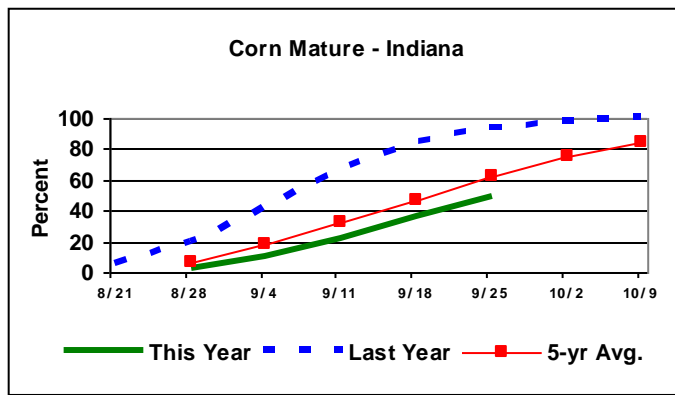
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# Crop Progress



## Other Agricultural Comments And News

### Tips for Evaluating Corn Hybrid Demonstration Plots

Written by Peter Thomison, Ohio State University. Article appears in the C.O.R.N. Newsletter 2011-32, and can be found at: <http://corn.osu.edu/newsletters/2011/2011-32>

This is the time of year when many farmers visit and evaluate hybrid demonstration plots planted by seed companies and county Extension personnel, among others. When checking out these plots, it's important to keep in mind their relative value and limitations. The much later than normal corn plantings in 2011 may result in hybrid performance and responses to various treatments (e.g. seeding rate, fertilizer rates) that are not representative of a typical growing season - when crops are planted much earlier.

Demonstration plots may be useful in providing information on certain hybrid traits, especially those that are usually not reported in state corn performance summaries. The following are some hybrid characteristics to consider while checking out hybrid demo plots.

**PLANT/EAR HEIGHT.** Corn reaches its maximum plant height soon after tasseling occurs. Remember that although a big tall hybrid may have a lot of "eye appeal," it may also be more prone to stalk lodging in the fall. Unless your interest is primarily silage production, increasing plant height should not be a major concern. Generally later maturity hybrids are taller than earlier maturity hybrids. Big ears placed high on a plant translate to a high center of gravity, predisposing a plant to potential lodging. The negative effects of stalk rot on stalk lodging in the fall may be worsened by high ear placement. Plots that have been subjected to early season (V7 or earlier) defoliation caused by hail or frost often have lower than normal ear height.

**STALK SIZE.** Generally speaking, a thicker stalk is preferable to a thinner one in terms of overall stalk strength and resistance to stalk lodging. As you inspect a test plot, you will see distinct differences among hybrids for stalk diameter. However, also check that the hybrids are planted at similar populations. As population increases stalk diameter generally decreases. Also keep in mind that uneven emergence and development, which affected many corn fields this year, may make such comparisons difficult because late emerging plants are "spindlier".

**DISEASES.** During the grain fill period, leaf diseases can cause serious yield reductions and predispose corn to stalk rot and lodging problems at maturity. Ear rots can also impact yield and grain quality. The onset of leaf death shortly after pollination can be devastating to potential yield, since maximum photosynthetic leaf surface is needed to optimize grain yield. Hybrids can vary considerably in their ability to resist infection by these diseases. Demonstration plots provide an excellent opportunity to compare differences among hybrids to disease problems that have only occurred on a localized basis. Look for differences in resistance

to northern corn leaf blight, gray leaf spot, and diplodia ear rot. Symptoms of these diseases and others are available online at the OSU Field Crop Disease Website ([http://oradc.osu.edu/ohiofieldcropdisease/t01\\_pageview2/Home.htm](http://oradc.osu.edu/ohiofieldcropdisease/t01_pageview2/Home.htm))

Check to see if foliar fungicides have been applied and what crop rotation has been followed. Typically you'll encounter more severe foliar disease problems in no-till, continuous corn.

**STALK ROTS.** Hybrids will likely differ widely when faced with strong stalk rot pressure. Begin checking plants in late August or about 6 weeks after pollination by pinching lower stalk internodes with your thumb and forefinger. Stalks that collapse easily are a sure indicator of stalk rot. Remember that hybrids with thicker stalks may be in plots having thin stands.

**LODGING.** Perhaps as important as stalk rot resistance is the stalk strength characteristics of a hybrid. Sometimes, superior stalk strength will limit the adverse effects of stalk rot. If your variety plot is affected by stalk rot in late August and early September, evaluate stalk lodging of the different hybrids. Most agronomists characterize plants with stalks broken below the ear as 'stalk lodged' plants. In contrast, corn stalks leaning 30 degrees or more from the center are generally described as 'root lodged' plants; broken stalks are usually not involved. Root lodging can occur as early as the mid-to-late vegetative stages (as it did this year) and as late as harvest maturity. Both stalk and root lodging can be affected by hybrid susceptibility, environmental stress (drought), insect and disease injury.

Root lodging may be associated with western corn rootworm injury. However, much root lodging in Ohio occurs as the result of other factors, i.e. when a hybrid susceptible to root lodging is hit by a severe windstorm, like those we experienced in mid-July. A hybrid may be particularly sensitive to root lodging yet very resistant to stalk lodging. A cornfield may exhibit extensive root lodging in July but show little or no evidence of root lodging at harvest maturity in September (except for a slight "goose necking" at the base of the plant). This year some of our plots were subjected to more than one wind storm that caused root lodging. Some hybrids showed less recovery following the second wind storm, especially when plant populations exceeded 34-35,000 plants/A.

**TRANSGENIC TRAITS:** Because damage from European corn borer (ECB) and western corn rootworm (RW) can be very localized, strip plot demonstrations may be one of the best ways to assess the advantages of ECB Bt and RW Bt corns. The potential benefit of the ECB Bt trait is likely to be most evident in plots planted very early or very late; the potential benefit of the RW Bt trait is likely to be most evident in plots planted following corn or in a field where the first year western corn rootworm variant is present.

(continued on page 4)

# Weather Information Table

## Week Ending Sunday, September 25, 2011

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air						Avg	April 1, 2011 through				
	Temperature			Precip.			4 in	September 25, 2011				
							Soil	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
<b>Northwest (1)</b>												
Chalmers_5W	78	47	60	-5	1.08	4		30.15	+8.48	71	2874	-97
Francesville	76	45	59	-4	0.32	4		26.97	+5.07	73	2862	+134
Valparaiso_AP_I	75	41	59	-5	0.34	3		24.80	+1.39	70	2920	+207
Wanatah	77	42	56	-6	0.23	4	64	29.48	+6.83	88	2539	-52
Winamac	76	46	60	-4	0.93	4		29.27	+7.37	82	2825	+97
<b>North Central (2)</b>												
Plymouth	77	43	58	-6	1.07	3		27.07	+4.74	76	2846	-23
South_Bend	78	44	61	-2	0.63	3		25.28	+3.58	77	3039	+348
Young_America	77	48	60	-4	1.76	4		27.85	+6.66	62	2948	+127
<b>Northeast (3)</b>												
Fort_Wayne	79	44	62	-2	1.37	4		23.85	+4.35	77	3250	+431
Kendallville	77	45	59	-4	1.60	5		29.73	+9.27	101	2868	+218
<b>West Central (4)</b>												
Greencastle	77	47	61	-5	2.13	4		28.80	+4.21	74	2975	-204
Perrysville	80	48	62	-2	0.46	5	70	22.31	-0.81	66	3281	+323
Spencer_Ag	80	49	63	+0	2.67	4		27.98	+3.21	67	3346	+361
Terre_Haute_AFB	81	46	64	-2	1.00	4		26.08	+2.83	71	3495	+340
W_Lafayette_6NW	78	49	61	-2	1.84	5	65	30.90	+9.24	73	3122	+316
<b>Central (5)</b>												
Eagle_Creek_AP	78	50	63	-2	3.79	4		26.69	+4.97	71	3530	+402
Greenfield	80	45	62	-3	1.51	3		31.09	+7.33	85	3273	+264
Indianapolis_AP	82	51	66	+2	2.76	4		23.46	+1.74	67	3708	+580
Indianapolis_SE	79	46	62	-3	1.76	4		30.31	+8.12	75	3202	+81
Tipton_Ag	80	46	61	-2	1.99	4	68	30.87	+8.86	73	3038	+317
<b>East Central (6)</b>												
Farmland	79	43	62	+0	1.67	5	69	24.85	+3.41	79	3071	+413
New_Castle	80	42	61	-2	1.75	6		33.08	+10.36	72	2979	+255
<b>Southwest (7)</b>												
Evansville	82	53	68	+1	4.13	6		38.70	+16.79	61	4058	+434
Freelandville	81	51	65	-1	1.96	3		27.09	+4.28	56	3683	+424
Shoals_8S	82	51	64	-1	2.10	5		34.08	+9.43	62	3430	+269
Stendal	82	53	65	-2	3.46	5		44.02	+19.48	61	3708	+290
Vincennes_5NE	83	51	65	-2	2.57	5	69	36.60	+13.79	64	3730	+471
<b>South Central (8)</b>												
Leavenworth	79	55	65	+0	2.41	7		35.79	+10.85	81	3687	+547
Oolitic	80	49	64	+0	1.46	6	67	37.27	+13.68	76	3290	+270
Tell_City	81	55	67	-1	1.76	6		35.39	+10.26	64	3881	+381
<b>Southeast (9)</b>												
Brookville	79	47	63	-1	1.60	7		30.06	+7.18	80	3417	+549
Greensburg	79	49	64	-1	1.65	7		33.12	+10.01	71	3486	+555
Seymour	78	49	63	-2	2.06	6		32.83	+10.30	66	3284	+273

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DFN = Departure From Normal.  
GDD = Growing Degree Days.  
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

For more weather information, visit [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com) or call 1-888-798-9955.

## Tips for Evaluating Corn Hybrid Demonstration Plots (continued)

**HUSK COVERAGE/EAR ANGLE.** Hybrids will vary for completeness of husk coverage on the ear as well as tightness of the husk leaves around the ear. Ears protrude from the husk leaves are susceptible to insect and bird feeding. Husks that remain tight around the ear delay field drydown of the grain. Hybrids with upright ears are often associated with short shanks that may be more prone to ear and kernel rots than those ears that point down after maturity. This relationship received considerable attention in 2009 when *Gibberella* ear rot problems were widespread across the Eastern Corn Belt. However, we've observed that differences in ear "orientation" among hybrids can be strongly influenced by growing season and plant density. Also, under certain environmental conditions, some hybrids are more prone to drop ears, a major problem if harvesting is delayed.

The following are some additional points to consider during your plot evaluations:

1. Field variability alone can easily account for differences of 10 to 50 bushels per acre. Be extremely wary of strip plots that are not replicated, or only have "check" or "tester" hybrids inserted between every 5 to 10 hybrids. The best test plots are replicated (with all hybrids replicated at least three times).
2. Don't put much stock in results from ONE LOCATION AND ONE YEAR, even if the trial is well run and reliable. This is especially important this year given the tremendous variability in growing conditions (e.g. planting dates) and crop performance across the state. Don't overemphasize results from ONE TYPE OF TRIAL. Use data and observations from university trials, local demonstration plots, and then your own on-farm trials to look for consistent trends.

3. Initial appearances can be deceiving, especially visual assessments! Use field days to make careful observations and ask questions, but reserve decisions concerning hybrid selection until you've seen performance results.

4. Walk into plots and check plant populations. Hybrids with large ears or two ears/plant may have thin stands.

5. Break ears in two to check relative kernel development of different hybrids. Use kernel milk line development to compare relative maturity of hybrids if hybrids have not yet reached black layer. Hybrids that look most healthy and green may be more immature than others. Don't confuse good late season plant health ("stay green") with late maturity.

6. Differences in standability will not show up until later in the season and/or until after a windstorm. Pinch or split the lower stalk to see whether the stalk pith is beginning to rot.

7. Visual observations of kernel set, ear-tip fill, ear length, number of kernel rows and kernel depth, etc. may provide some approximate basis for comparisons among hybrids but may not indicate much about actual yield potential. This year we've seen differences in tip kernel abortion ("tip dieback" or "tip-back") among hybrids and heard reports of "zipper ears" (missing kernel rows). Even if corn ear tips are not filled completely, due to poor pollination or kernel abortion, yield potential may not be affected significantly, if at all, because the numbers of kernels per row may still be above normal.

8. Find out if the seed treatments (seed applied fungicides and insecticides) applied varied among hybrids planted, e.g. were the hybrids treated with the same seed applied insecticide at the same rate? Differences in treatments may affect final stand and injury caused by insects and diseases.

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WEEKLY NEWS REPORT

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